The Baltimore Policy Project

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Overview

- What is the Baltimore Policy Project?

- Past topics

- Research approach

- Influence on neighborhoods and policy

- Example of the most recent Baltimore Policy Project: "Neighborhood Revitalization: Measuring Change In, and Around, Five Transforming Baltimore Neighborhoods."

The Baltimore Policy Project

- Annual research project, started in 1994

- Conducted by Professor Sandra Newman of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies and her first-year graduate students in a core course, "Policy Analysis for the Real World"

- In-depth examination of a timely policy issue or topic of general interest based on discussions with community leaders, journalists, and local officials

- Goal to "take temperature"

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U N I V E R S I T Y

Past Topics

- Timely Policy Issues
  - "Neighborhood Effects of the HOPE VI: Evidence from Baltimore" (2003)
  - "Empowerment Zone Strategies for Baltimore: Lessons from Research and Experience" (1996)
  - "Neighborhoods Left Behind in Baltimore's Housing Boom" (2006)
- Topics of General Interest
  - "Is Neighborhood Poverty a Good Marker for Neighborhood Quality?" (2005)
  - "Neighborhood Revitalization: Measuring Change In, and Around, Five Transforming Baltimore Neighborhoods" (2010)

Research Approach

- Mixed method using quantitative and qualitative data
- Quantitative
  - Administrative Data
  - Systematic on-site observations
  - Spatial analysis using Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Qualitative
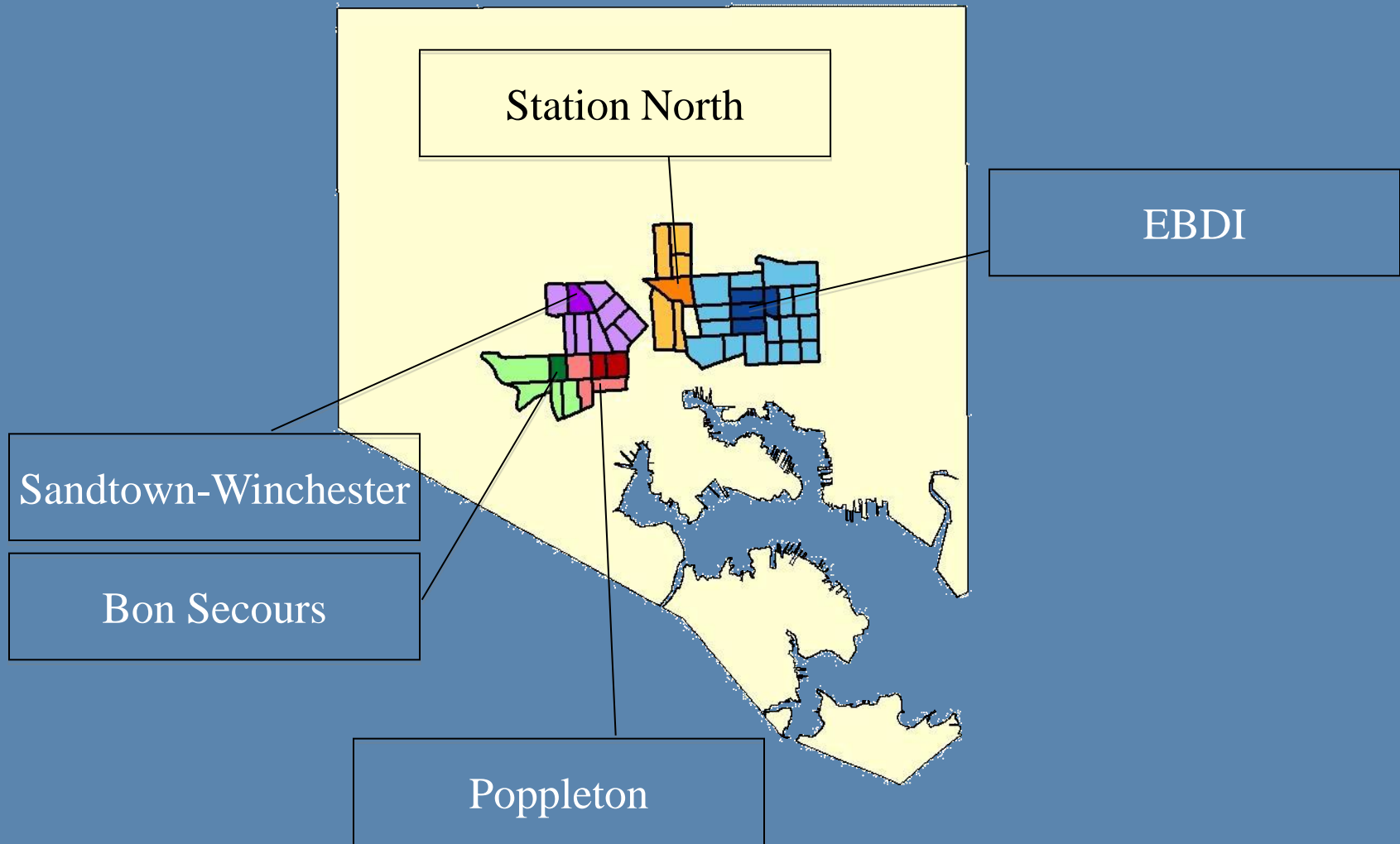 - Literature review
  - Interviews

Influence on Neighborhoods and Policy

- Provides up to date information about how a policy is taking shape – is it on a path towards achieving its objectives

- Informs local decision makers, community leaders, and residents
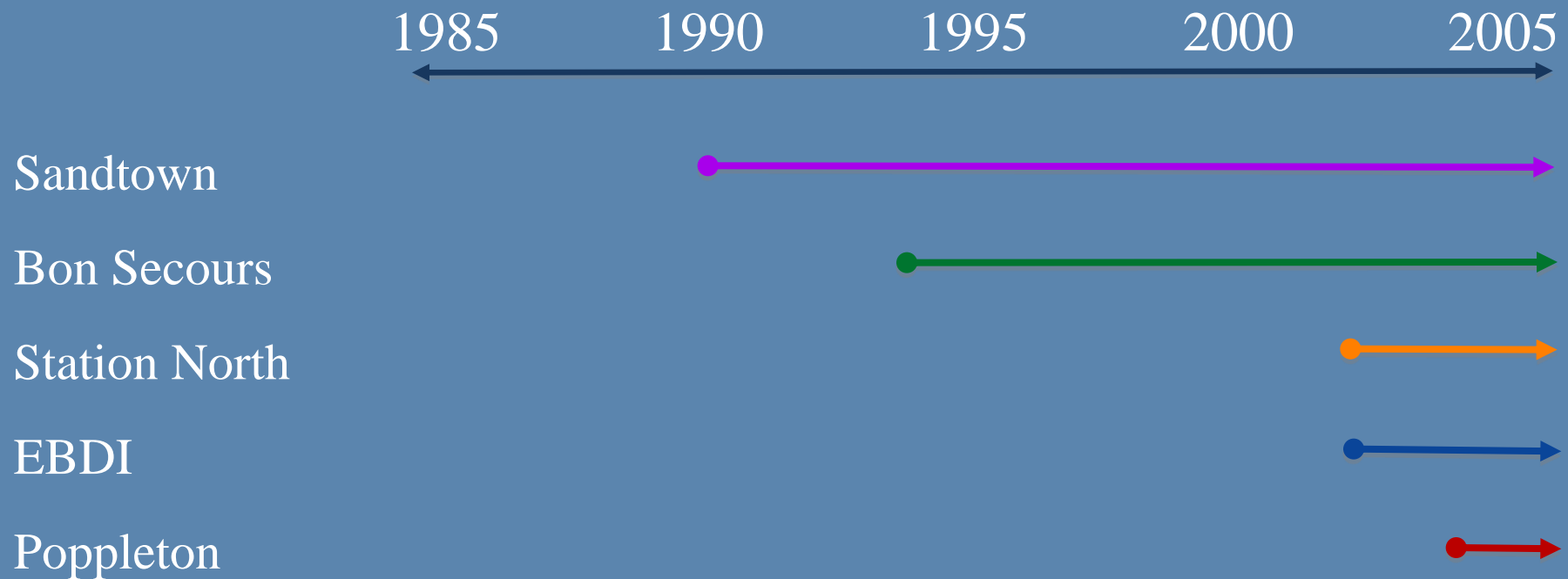
- Leads to additional research

Recent Baltimore Policy Project

- "Neighborhood Revitalization: Measuring Change In, and Around, Five Transforming Baltimore Neighborhoods" (2010)

- Research questions

  1. Are there measurable changes in the intervention zone or surrounding areas?

  2. Is there evidence of positive or negative spillover?

Five Revitalization Areas

Station North

EBDI

Sandtown-Winchester

Bon Secours

Poppleton

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Intervention Timeline

| 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 |

Sandtown

Bon Secours

Station North

EBDI

Poppleton

Core Indicators

Core indicators emerging from the literature:

1. Property values

2. Crime

3. School performance

4. Demographics

Establishing a Comparison

- Identified "control" using pre-revitalization property values

- Makes analysis of observed changes more meaningful

Integration of Data

- Quantitative and qualitative data

  - 6 quantitative data sources used

  - 133 interviews conducted

  - 751 city blocks observed

Strategies Pursued by Revitalization Areas

	Sandtown	Bon Secours	Station North	EBDI	Poppleton
Comprehensive	✔	✔	✔	✔	
Place-based					✔
Anchor Institution		✔	✔	✔	✔
Arts-oriented			✔		

Intervention Outperforms Comparison

	Sandtown	Bon Secours	Station North	EBDI	Poppleton
Property Appreciation	✓	✓	N/A		N/A
Adult Crime		✓		✓	✓
Juvenile Arrests			✓		
Median Income		✓		✓	
Abandonment	✓	✓			

N/A means not available, too few sales.

Models of Intervention

Community Model:
Bottom Up

Market Incentives
Model:
Hands Off

New Growth
Model:
Top Down

Public-private

Station North

Bon Secours

EBDI

Publicly-led

Sandtown

Poppleton

Synopsis and Thoughts

- Positive findings:

  – Increased property values

  – Reduction in crime in some areas

- Revitalization concerns:

  – Community involvement

  – Resident displacement

Questions & Comments

To read past projects go to http://ips.jhu.edu/pub/Occasional-Papers

To propose future topics or for more information, please contact Professor Sandra Newman at sjn@jhu.edu